



HWA Update

January, 2024

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SAVE THE DATES

**HWA Fun in the Field
April 27-28, 2024**

**HWA Airedale Field Nationals
Sept. 13-15, 2024**

**Both at Elk Ridge Hunt Club
Bucyrus, OH**

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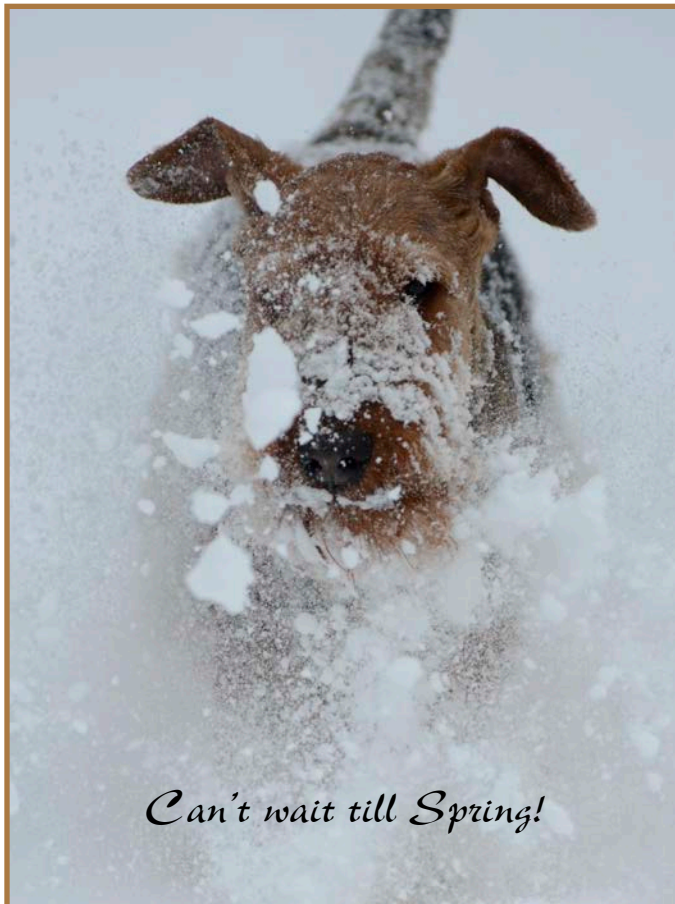
Fun in the Field Aiming for a Good Start

HWA's **Fun in the Field** training weekend for Airedales takes place on **April 27-28** at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, OH. That's a bit later in April than usual this year due to circumstances beyond our control, but it does increase the likelihood of nice spring weather.

This is a training weekend intended for dogs and owners who may have never attempted hunting before, on up to those who come to increase their skills through the practice opportunities we offer. Along the way we have the chance to enjoy the company of Airedales and their owners in the very pleasant setting of Elk Ridge Hunt Club.

The two days of Fun in the Field hold plenty for your dog to do. With respect to our breed's traditional role as a hunter of furred game, we'll

(Continued on pg 2, left column)



Can't wait till Spring!

(Fun in the Field, cont'd from pg. 1)

give your dog a chance to try out his nose on a raccoon-scented track for some tracking practice leading up to finding the cage with a raccoon pelt hanging high in a tree. We work on teaching dogs treeing skills such as knowing to look up to find the raccoon and encouraging BARKING at the caged "raccoon." All this is helpful training if you intend to run a Fur Test at the ATCA's Cooley hunt test weekend in May (see page 3) or at our Nationals in September. Even if not, it's a lot of fun for dogs and owners to try it out. Once we show you how to do it, it's a hunting activity you can practice at home with a small investment in raccoon scent and a pelt.

We also offer an introduction to game birds for pups and dogs who have never seen or smelled a live bird. You might be surprised how the "lightbulb" turns on for many dogs when they have a chance to do some bird chasing. Your coaches will be HWA members who want to help you get started, so all lessons will be informal and stress-free.

For those whose dogs have already been shot over, we'll have pheasant or chukar hunting sessions on both Saturday and Sunday. Spectators will see some exciting bird work by Airedales with a range of experience, from some who may be trying it for the first time, on up to Master level dogs working on honing their skills. HWA provides the gunners, just be sure to wear a blaze orange vest or jacket, as required even for spectators in the upland field.

We're a friendly group that welcomes newcomers. Whether you're a not-yet hunter or perhaps even not interested in hunting per se, you're invited to come to enjoy meeting the people and Airedales, enjoying some good exercise with your dog, and some meals with your new friends.

Entry /reservation forms for Fun in the Field will be sent out to our email mailing list and posted on our website in February. You'll have several weeks to sign up, and we hope you do.

Looking Ahead to the HWA Nationals

HWA will hold its **38th Airedale Field Nationals** on **Sept. 13-15, 2024** at Elk Ridge Hunt Club in Bucyrus, OH. The Nationals have evolved quite a bit across the decades. Our current emphasis on preparing Airedales to be versatile hunting companions remains true to our Mission Statement (see page 6). There is dual emphasis on giving "new" dogs and owners a chance to find out what its all about, as well as bringing started dogs to skill levels that make participation in AKC Hunt Tests a fun next step. Equally important, non-competitive dogs work on being practical hunting companions.

To make all this happen, professional retriever trainer **Bridget Bodine** will return to our Nationals as our unanimously-approved clinician. Bridget's "workshops" are more like individual sessions and small groups that meet owners and dogs where they are in their training journey, be that working on better heeling and recalls, meeting game birds for the first time, on up to complicated blind retrieves.

In addition to Bridget Bodine Workshops, the Nationals will also offer plentiful **pheasants for hunting practice** for dogs who have been shot over. Many attendees do some pheasant hunting on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and work with Bridget in-between times.

On Friday, Sept. 13th, the first day of the Nationals, there will be an **ATCA Fur Test** and **HWA's Hunting Instinct Test**. The Hunting Instinct Test is an informal evaluation test for puppies and dogs without any prior exposure to field work. Its also a favorite spectator sport to watch the pups show off their prey drive, retrieving inclinations, and reactions to live game.

This year we're also planning some not-particularly-hunting activities for folks who like to come and do some hiking and hanging-out their Airedales, all in the company of similarly inclined people. See the article on pages 4-5 by Claudia Weakland to get the idea of how a non-hunting person can still enjoy the HWA Nationals.

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If you're debating which HWA event to attend....
What Are the Differences Between

Fun in the Field

- Only two days (less motel, meal expense)
- Informal coaching offered by HWA volunteers
- Fur-tracking practice session
- Birds ordered in advance, may be limited due to end of season
- Informal group dinner at local restaurant on Saturday night

HWA Nationals

- Three full days
- Professionally-led training workshops
- ATCA Fur Test
- HWA Hunting Instinct Test
- Annual Meeting open to all
- Plentiful pheasants at start of season, so extras can be purchased
- Banquet catered at the hunt club on Saturday night

Or, stop debating and plan to come to both!

2024 HWA Board of Directors

President

Mary Wright

Vice-President

Susan Hogsette

Secretary

Kim Zaborniak

Treasurer

Kate Ostrowski

Board Members

Sherri Glass

Cindy Green

Linda Potter

John Noland



HWA President Mary Wright
and her Airedale Journey

The ATCA Cooley Memorial Hunt Test Coming Up in May

The Airedale Terrier Club of America's annual Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend takes place May 17-19, 2024 at Rock River Kennels in Beaver Dam, WI. The weekend starts with an ATCA Fur Test on Friday morning and an ATCA Retriever Test in the afternoon. Saturday and Sunday are AKC Upland (Spaniel) Hunt Tests. This is a very popular hunt test weekend for all eligible upland hunting breeds, so watch <https://huntsecretary.com/> for entries to open, usually in February.

Reflections of a Retired Search and Rescue K-9 Team

By Claudia Weakland

When I decided that I was interested in Search and Rescue, I researched what breed of dog I wanted. Shepherds, Labs, and Golden Retrievers are commonly used, but I have always been a terrier lover. I discovered that Airedales were utilized by Great Britain in the World Wars for a variety of tasks, one of which was to identify wounded soldiers on the battlefield. They were called “ambulance dogs”, and they actually had a War Dog Academy to train Airedales to do this. So that is how Finnegan came into my life. This has been an all-encompassing journey.

I would like to share some thoughts that I wrote in my journal after our first search:

2018

“This is the first search where Finn and I were actually given a task. I watched my boy work that night, and it was an amazing thing to witness. To watch him continue to focus and search through streams and mud and thorn bushes, into ravines and up and down steep grades for such a long period of time gave me so much respect for him. A respect that I did not have before that evening. To see him stand in the middle of thick bushes and raise his nose searching for a scent gave me a feeling that I cannot put into words. This experience was the culmination of years of training, studying, tears, injuries, more training, frustrations, problem solving, drinking, more training and on and on....To watch Finn work made it all worth it. I felt joy.

“But here’s the interesting thing, during this time of joy I was also grappling with a sense of sadness at the situation that created this experience for me. So I was left with conflictual feelings of joy and sadness at the same time. This is something that no amount of training can prepare you for. When we had to ask the family to step indoors so that Finn could complete a grounds search it became all too real. It just left me with an ache in the pit of my stomach which has not gone away. I feel like in some immeasurable way a small part of me has become tied to this family. I am sad for them and I wish that we could have found this man Sunday night. It was not to be as his body was located in a pond on the property.

“So this has been a learning experience for me. There is a price to pay to do this work. An emotional toll, one that can give you joy and sadness swirling around at the same time. So this is Search and Rescue.”



Claudia Weakland and Finn

Fast forward to present day:

Since that first task Finn and I have been on many searches, ranging from intense heat to rain to extreme cold. Some with happy endings, others not so much. We have climbed mountains, fought through undergrowth and crossed water ways (not one of his favorite things to do). We have almost run out of gas in the early hours of the morning when driving home from working through the night. Through all of this we were a team, forging a bond that I have never shared with another dog.

Last year Finnegan started having some issues with intermittent lameness after long strenuous work, so I decided that it was time to retire. I knew that he would keep working as long as I asked, but as his partner I knew it was time. Ironically that is when I met Dianne Maxwell who introduced me to “Hunting/ Working Airedales.” I thought that perhaps Finn would enjoy some hunting in his years of retirement and I made plans to attend the

(Continued on page 5, left column)

(Cont'd from page 5, Claudia & Finn)

Nationals in 2022. Well, it quickly became apparent that Finn is gun shy, not just gun shy but panic stricken when hearing shots a football field away. I attribute this to an explosion that occurred very close to us during a Search and Rescue event a few years prior that left him very traumatized. So although Finn is never going to hunt, we met a group of individuals passionate about promoting the versatility of the breed who respected Finn and the work that he has done. He may be afraid of the crack of gunshot, but on so many levels he has shown true courage throughout his career. We also met Mitch Stewart who was doing wilderness backpacking with his beloved Max. There was an immediate connection to this man who spends so much time in the wilderness. That is where Finn and I are most at home. This friendship has grown since that first meeting and my life is richer because of it. So I returned home with my world a little larger.

I returned to Nationals in 2023, hoping to reconnect with individuals who I met at our last attendance. It felt like a breath of fresh air to be welcomed back by people who were sincerely interested how we were doing and continued to appreciate Finnegan. While we may not share hunting, we do share the love and respect for the versatility of this breed.

Finn and I continue to spend much time exploring the forests. We now can do it without the swirling emotions of being on task searching for a lost individual. We can just appreciate our time in the wilderness. Because Finn still enjoys the hunt I occasionally take him to training where he can do some short searches. And so in closing, Finn and I are thankful that Hunting/Working Airedales has become a part of our journey and that we can now call many of the members' friends.



Keeping up with Airedale Hunt Title Holders

At the end of every year HWA updates its listing of all Airedales (to the best of our knowledge) who have earned hunt test titles since the start of our program. If a dog has at least one hunt test title, we want to include that dog in this database. HWA is the only organization that maintains and publishes this record. Along with the dog's hunt test title, we list that dog's other performance and/or conformation titles that show the dog's versatility. This database is important documentation for our breed's history.

In addition, HWA's website has a photo showcase of Airedales who have earned a hunt test title offered by the AKC. This recognizes achievements of Airedales and owners who have successfully competed in the wider, established multi-breed sporting dog world, and by so doing have brought favorable attention to our breed.

You can find our Hunt Test Title Holder listing and our photo showcase on our website under the About tab on our website, www.huntingworkingairedales.com or by this direct link: <https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/hunting-title-holders>

We show the listing of hunt test title holders two ways: sorted alphabetically by owners' names and sorted alphabetically by dogs' names. Those of us who take note of which owners or kennel names produce successful dogs should find these listings to be useful research tools, as well as a historical record. The photo showcase gives more information of each dog's accomplishments, appearance, pedigree and breeder. Again, a useful research tool.

If we have inadvertently missed your Airedale who has a hunt test title, please let us know by contacting hwainformation@gmail.com

If you do not wish to stay connected through our HWA email mailing list, please contact HWAINformation@gmail.com to ask to be removed.

MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Theory

HWA's Mission Statement can be found on the homepage of our website. It says: ***"HWA is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Airedale Terrier as a versatile hunting and working companion dog."***

As you read this newsletter, you can see that's what we do. All our field training efforts and opportunities are aimed at giving Airedales a chance to hunt, as well as teaching their owners how to do that. When it comes to hunting breeds it's a truism that "If you don't use it, you lose it." That has happened with large segments of some sporting breeds – think of American Cocker Spaniels. In other cases, sporting breeds are split between "conformation dogs" and "hunting dogs," as in English Springer Spaniels. We've seen that hunting instinct in Airedales remains strong throughout a cross-section of the breed. We cultivate hunting Airedales from all walks of life.

HWA promotes hunting Airedales by educating the public to their abilities. To that end, a long-term goal had been to have the American Kennel Club allow Airedales to participate with other hunting breeds in AKC Hunt Tests. That has been accomplished. Now we recognize and celebrate every Airedale that earns an AKC Hunt Test title. To be sure, this isn't because those dogs are better than their non-competitive relatives. But rather, these AKC title-holders prove to the wider sporting-dog world that Airedales are as good at hunting as other more traditional sporting breeds. As such, these Airedales are upholding the breed's hunting heritage. You can see more about this on pages 5 and 7-8 of this newsletter.

We also use the media to promote hunting Airedales. Our website, www.huntingworkingairedales.com has a wealth of Airedale photos, history and advice. If you ever meet someone who doesn't believe Airedales can hunt, tell him to check out the HWA website.

Hunting Working Airedales, Inc. Facebook page has over 4600 followers. This is a large group of followers whose comments mostly indicate that they admire hunting Airedales tremendously even though they may not personally hunt with their dogs.

The Reality

With so many followers and admirers, it's surprising that HWA's membership typically is less than 100 people. Of those members, a minority forms the core group that regularly participates in HWA events. We appreciate the financial and moral support of those members who believe what HWA does is important, even if they don't attend our events.

But this begs the question, ***How about you?*** If you have already renewed or started your 2024 HWA membership – thank you! But if you've been admiring hunting/working Airedales from afar, we ask you join in their preserving and promoting by becoming an HWA member. In a world full of "good causes" seeking your support, we'd suggest the HWA is a good cause for you even if you can't come to events. You can find HWA's 2024 Membership form as the last page of this newsletter. Its also available on our website via this link https://www.huntingworkingairedales.com/files/ugd/57083b_fdaaf0ccb8544f1ab1b4d42cf4f0e0eb.pdf



Their future is in your hands.

Taking a Look at 2023's New Title Holders

Last year one Airedale, **Legend's Thinking Like a Mountain**, (aka Aldo), owned/handled by Hailey Johnston, earned an **AKC Junior Hunter** title at the Missouri Hunting Spaniel Club hunt test on April 22-23, 2023. Aldo is pictured here with his owner/handler Hailey Johnston and AKC judges Karen Lamb and Amy Schwartz.



A new **AKC Senior Hunter** title was earned by **Legend's Airedales Eureka Pride**, (Maya), at the Missouri Hunting Spaniel Club Test on April 22-23. Maya is shown below with owner/handler/breeder Michael Sites. Maya is Aldo's littermate.



Some Airedale history was made in May 20-21, 2023 at the Airedale Terrier Club of America's Cooley Memorial Hunt Test in Beaver Dam, WI. **Pipestone's Well Tanned Leather** (Tanner, owned/handled by Scott Lichty, earned his 9th and 10th passes in the Senior level upland test to earn his **AKC Senior Hunter Advanced** (SHA) title. To the best of our knowledge, Tanner is the first and only Airedale to earn an AKC Senior Hunter Advanced title. This is a considerable accomplishment. To earn the Senior Hunter Advanced title, a dog must first qualify in four AKC upland (spaniel) tests to earn a Senior Hunter title. Then, in order to earn the Advanced title, a dog must qualify in five more Senior Hunting Tests, earning a score of 8 or above out of a possible 10 in each test.



In addition, on the May 19th Tanner passed the ATCA Senior Retriever test that is patterned after an HRC Seasoned Hunt Test. In addition, last April Scott's wife Anita Smits handled Tanner in AKC obedience trials, in which Tanner earned his AKC Companion Dog Excellent title (CDX) in just three days by qualifying in 5 out of 6 tests, which is quite an accomplishment in its own right.

(Continued on page 8, left column)

(Cont'd from pg. 7, New Title Holders)

The Airedale Terrier Club of America [ATCA] offers parent club Fur Tracking titles, which can be recorded on AKC pedigrees. Airedales have two annual opportunities to earn these titles, one at the ATCA Cooley Memorial Hunt Test weekend in May in Wisconsin, and again at HWA's Nationals in September.

The ATCA Fur Test held on May 19th, 2023 at the Cooley Hunt Test weekend in Wisconsin brought good results for Sue Zimmer who owns/handled her two Airedales to new qualifications in the ATCA Fur Test. Sue is shown here with her Airedales. **Bobcat Call Me in the Morning** (Chipper, on left) earned an **Junior Fur Tracker** (JFT) title. On right, **JoleeAire Buckwheat**, earned his **Senior Fur Tracker** (SFT) title. Fur Test judges Sandi Cooley and Lexi Inks complete the photo.

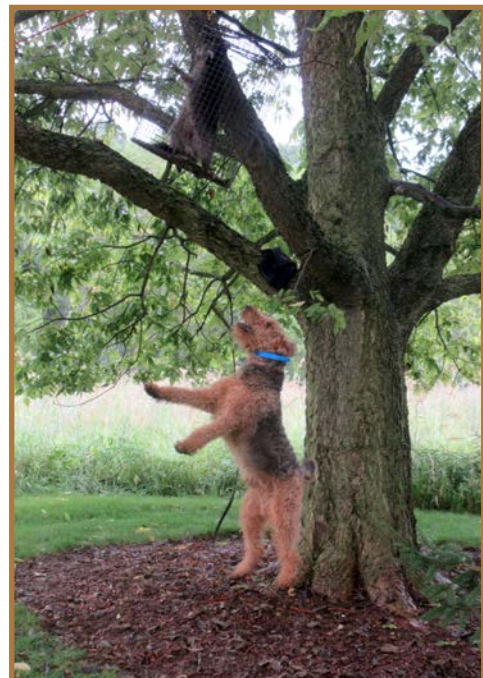


In addition, Sandi Cooley and her Airedale **Aircraft Strongbow Spirit of the Purple Sage** (Surrey) for qualified for a **Junior Fur Tracker** (JFT) title. Judge Lexi Inks is on their right.



Qualifiers and judges in the ATCA Fur Test held at the HWA Nationals on Sept. 9, 2023 are shown here. Left to right: **Stillwater's Duncan Magnus** (Duncan) with owner/handler Liz Pinkey earned his Senior Fur Tracker title. Duncan also won the Priscilla Cree Award for being the high-scoring dog in the test with a nearly perfect score. Judges Dale Burrier, Kim Zaborniak and Diane Maxwell are in the middle. Then **Aircraft Grace Under Fire** (Gracie), owned/handled by Chris Halvorson and **Coldstream's Single Shot** (Journey), owned/handled by Mary Wright, were the two qualifiers in the **Junior Fur Test**.

We congratulate the dogs and owners who have made the effort to prove their hunting abilities against recognized performance standards in



Duncan warms up for his ATCA Fur Test at the HWA Nationals.

**Hunting Working Airedales, Inc.
Membership and Dues Notice**

2024 Membership Dues:

- \$30 Individual Member
- \$50 Family Membership for two or more (same address)

New Member Renewal

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ Mobile _____ Spouse's Mobile _____

Email _____ Spouse's email _____

HWA maintains an online password-protected "Members Only" name and contact information section for the convenience of the entire membership. Most members prefer to be listed in this section.

However, you may opt out, as follows:

- I (we) prefer to have only my name, city and state in the online listing.
- I (we) do not want my name or any contact information to appear in the online listing.

You may also wish to give additional financial support through two worthy funds:

- Sustaining Fund (insuring expenses will be covered) _____
- Training/ Education Fund (for judges, trainers, speakers, and/or printed educational materials) _____

Complete this form and mail it with your dues payment. Please make checks payable to *Hunting Working Airedales, Inc* and send to:

Kim Zaborniak, Membership Chair
12349 Cottage Avenue
Millersport, OH 43046

- Dues may be paid through PayPal by sending your payment to HWA2664@gmail.com (Please send as Friends & Family)
- You may also scan your completed membership form and email it to Kim Zaborniak at kimzab9@gmail.com.

2024 Membership dues paid now
apply to the 2024 membership year, running from January – December, 2024